



# Meet Erin Dobell of Earthy Imaginations

## **Describe Your Business:**

Artist/Gift Shop with a focus on natural and upcycled components, located on Texas Hollow Rd. in Odessa.

## **Tell us your story:**

In a nutshell, I'm originally from northern New Jersey, and moved to the Finger Lakes in 2005. Early on I was drawn to the driftwood I found along the lakeshore and eventually my collection got very big. So what was I going to do with it all if I continued to collect it? My mother and I together came up with the idea to bead them and that was the beginning of my driftwood art.

I shared a booth with my mother, a soy candle artisan since 2002, at local craft shows and festivals in northern NJ as well as here in the Finger Lakes. My work has also been in local shops around the area since 2006, originally starting with my handmade purses. It's been a slow growing, but successful, hobby on the side of my professional baking career for the last decade. After leaving a baking career at Ithaca College to pursue my artistic endeavors, I created Earthy Imaginations in 2017 taking the love of my hobby to the next level. My work includes sewing, painting, pouring resin settings of natural things such as mushrooms and flowers, earthy jewelry, building terrariums, pressed flower art, nature photography and woodland wreaths, but my specialty and true passion is creating beaded driftwood trees and sun catchers. If you're looking for something unique for your home or for a gift, you can find it at Earthy Imaginations, in our online Etsy shop or at the home-based gift shop on Texas Hollow Road in Odessa.

## **What has helped you succeed and gain experiences?**

The opportunity I had to experience different mediums with no restrictions while growing up with the overflowing craft closet in my home.

## **What keeps you up at night? What are your challenges?**

My creativity keeps me up at night when trying to turn my brain off :)! Shipping my artwork safely to their various destinations around the globe. Sometimes I also worry about not having enough driftwood with character to create my art. I'm very fussy about my driftwood collection.

## **What is your favorite local activity?**

Local live music and regional art shows/exhibits.

## **Is there anything else we should know about you?**

I love to garden and its challenges but it also teaches me patience.

## **What inspires you?**

I'm inspired by many things, but first and foremost by the people in my life that have shaped my love of art and nature; my mother and grandmother. They introduced me to the music, art, nature, and crafting that has woven me into the artist that I am today.

## **Earthy Imaginations**

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